



# FURZE PLATT FOCUS

Weekly Newsletter - Issue #70.1



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

### Welcome Back!

I hope that you all had an excellent Easter break. Our students have come back refreshed and focused at the start of term, particularly those with upcoming examinations.



Speaking to all students at the start of term, my assemblies have focused on the discipline FPSS staff work to instil in our students. Often this is misinterpreted by our community in the old fashion sense of rules and consequences.

Rather, the disciplines we try and instil in our students involve them developing as human beings we are proud to know. Individuals who understand their strengths and weaknesses and are able to have the self-discipline to improve their brains and bodies in order to live a fulfilling and active life.

I have illustrated to students how the ACHIEVE values, lessons and structures of school help with this process through various examples and shown them that whatever their career path, or their chosen interests, they will need to have self-discipline to be successful.

### FPSS at 60

Next Tuesday we celebrate FPSS reaching 60. As the old photographs show, our school has grown enormously since 1963 with so many opportunities for students in 2023. We will use our birthday as a chance to celebrate and also reflect on the many FPSS successes over the years.

### Revision and Examinations

Well done to all those students who are working so hard towards their examinations. While the written exams start in three weeks, currently there are many exams taking place. Good luck to all those students sitting their practical examinations in the next couple of weeks.

### NEU Strikes – 27 April and 2 May

The National Education Union called two more strikes



## TERM 5 EVENTS

ALL EVENTS

### Next Week ( Week 2 )

THU 27 APRIL	STRIKE DAY (SCHOOL PARTIALLY CLOSED)	
THU 27 APRIL	PTFA Meeting and 200 Club Draw	7.30pm

### Forthcoming events

MON 1 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY	
THU 4 MAY	Year 7 Parents' & Students' Consultation Evening	3.45pm - 7.45pm
FRI 5 MAY	Late Start	9.15am
MON 8 MAY	BANK HOLIDAY FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III	
WED 10 MAY	Year 6 Parents' and Students' Induction Evening	6.30pm - 9.00pm
WED 24 MAY	Lower School Drama Production	
FRI 26 MAY	END OF TERM (TERM 5)	3.15pm finish

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

before Easter. All parents and carers should have letters from me today explaining the impact on FPSS.

### Fundraising

Nick Holdsworth, Year 13, has been featured in the Maidenhead Advertiser this week: <https://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/gallery/maidenhead/184957/friend-of-teenager-who-died-in-river-pushes-for-water-safety.html>

Congratulations to Nick for his fundraising efforts.

### Eid

Finally, I would like to wish Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim families.

Take care,

Dr Andrew J Morrison (BA Hons, PGCE, MA, PhD)

## HAPPY MEMORIES OF FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

History classes in Years 10-11. My teacher at the time had a great method of teaching the subject and the way he spoke about it was fabulous. Another great memory I have was being crowned Prom King at the end of my Prom in Year 11.

infringement. This involves having the correct school uniform, but not wearing it correctly, for example not wearing a blazer. A C2 is for failing to have the correct item, for example not having a blazer, or wearing items that are not permitted such as trainers or jewellery. Staff will also have the discretion to award a C2 for any student who repeatedly picks up a C1.

Students who refuse to correct their uniform can expect further sanctions. Staff will continue to be asked to give an ACHIEVE point at the start of every lesson for every student who is ready to learn and wearing the correct school uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Lewis Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 3

Mr J Dollery Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 4

## UNIFORM

Dear Parents and Carers,

The vast majority of our students continue to wear the correct school uniform. We are grateful for parental and carer support with our uniform standards to help us reinforce the importance of wearing uniform with pride and in accordance with our rules. The principle of following the rules and expectations of an organisation is an important life lesson and an example of personal integrity.

A couple of areas of uniform clearly need further clarification and reinforcement:

1. Earrings and piercings – only one single stud in each ear and no additional piercings
2. Eyelashes – must be natural without any lash extensions or false eyelashes
3. Nails – only clear nail varnish, no false nails, acrylics or gel nails.
4. Make up – no lipstick, blusher, eyeliner, or eyeshadow
5. Jewellery – no rings, necklaces, or bracelets
6. Skirts – must be Furze Platt skirts and without any additional hemming, sewing of pleats or rolling up.
7. No hoodies or tracksuit tops are allowed on site.
8. Students should wear their school blazer to every lesson.

Thank you in advance for your support. This week we have reinforced our expectations with a 'soft' challenge. This will involve a clarification and reminder of our rules. From next week, students can expect an instant C2 (break time detention) for not meeting the expectations set out above.

A C1 will be issued for any straightforward uniform



## YEAR 13 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD PRIZE WINNERS



Pictured: Idris Riaz, Jacob Gould, Dario Branco, and Ollie Marland

Congratulations to Dario Branco, Jacob Gould, Ollie Marland, Idris Riaz and Ho Man Yiu, all Year 13, on their recent success in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad competition. Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for

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students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field. Budding chemists develop their critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations.

This year's problems included questions on the chemistry of rocket fuels; electronegativity; amino acid complexes; vaping and vitamin E acetate; and cheese manufacturing and the production of holes in Swiss cheese. The RSC Olympiad runs every year for Chemistry students in Year 13 and current Year 12 students will be able to sign up in the coming Autumn term.



Parents and carers of students in all year groups will have received invitations at the end of last term to attend clubs for their son/daughter for this term (Term 5). The email was headed Furze Platt Senior School with the email address [evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk](mailto:evolve.furzeplattsnrvisits@edufocus.co.uk) and the links are safe for you to click on to confirm your child's attendance. If you have not yet received an email please check your junk / spam folders.

More clubs have been added this term so please do check the link if your child would like to attend **Gardening Club, Computing, Coding, A Level Computing Clinic, GCSE Computing Clinic and D&D** which are all now available to book for the relevant year groups.

Parents and carers may wish to sign up to My EVOLVE for an overview of clubs, what's on etc – you can do this from the club or academic support clinic emails sent to you in two easy steps:

1. Click on the link in the email as usual to see clubs/clinics
2. Click 'create account' button.

Please note:

- \* all bookings for Term 5 must be made through the original email invitations (sent out on Friday 31st March)
- \* once in the list of clubs or academic support clinics, click on the name of the activity or session you wish to book and press confirm
- \* please do not duplicate club bookings per session
- \* students in upper years may see invitations to academic clubs that are not part of their specific academic programme; emails are sent to year groups so please only choose sessions that are relevant to your son/daughter
- \* if your son or daughter wishes to be removed from a club completely, please email [catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net](mailto:catherine.johnstone@furzeplatt.net) and provide as much notice as possible to allow time for that place to be allocated to someone on the waiting list.

Thank you.

#### LINK TO SCHOOL CLUBS LIST





## TURING CHALLENGE HOUSE COMPETITION



- This half term's House competition is a Turing Maths Challenge, in honour of Alan Turing.
- Within each year group, the four Houses will compete against each other in teams of 4.
- The Turing Challenge will take place during tutor time in a classroom with one of the Heads of House.
- There will not be an audience.
- The winners will win prizes and lots of House points:

Selected finalists will all get 10 points each.

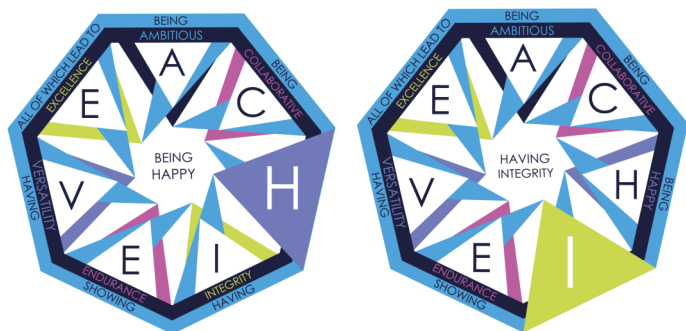
Winners of the final will all get 25 points each.

Winning House will get 1000 points, 600 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 400 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 200 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The winning team will also win some sweet treats!

The individual with the highest score in each year group will win a £10 Amazon voucher, + 60 House points.

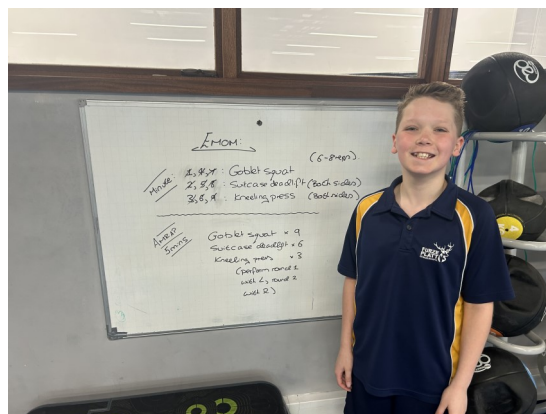
**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF ALAN TURING**



## FITNESS CLUB



A delighted Fraser Roberts (Year 7) after facing down Wednesday morning's Fitness Club's first session of the half term.



## SKI TRIP 2023

Almost 70 students and staff set off for this year's Ski Trip in Andorra on the first Saturday of the Easter holidays. Despite a good journey from school to Dover, unfortunately the group were then caught up in the widely reported delays at the ports in Dover. A very long fourteen hours later, they finally boarded the ferry at 3.30am but spirits were still high!



With ski gear collected, they all headed out to the slopes for skiing and snowboarding. Once in their groups, they

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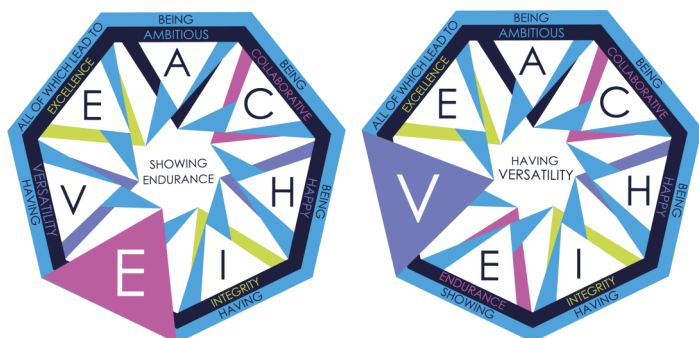
met the instructors whose enthusiasm and teaching has been amazing and really helped our students forget about the journey and the tiredness. Grandvalira has got some lovely and challenging slopes for all ability ranges which has been great for all, plus a range of entertainment – including quizzes, handball, football, pizza night, crepes, relaxation and shopping experiences. Students' ski skills



improved so much over the holiday, well done to them all!

Mr Jones, Trip Leader said: 'I am extremely pleased to see how well they have all come along, especially considering a lot were low level at the start of the week or complete beginners. There have been constant smiles at the end of each session and lots of stories being shared around between students and with staff as well. It is great to see the confidence of the students growing in skiing but also talking and sharing with their peers and other year groups too.'

Huge thanks to everyone at Interski and our Ski Team 2023 teachers for all their support.



## HOW AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MANAGE STRESS

By Ella Clark and Sabrina Lee, Year 12



'What is stress? Stress can be defined as a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. It's a natural human response prompting us to address challenges and threats in our lives. Some stress is healthy but left unchecked it can grow and reach levels that are overwhelming and difficult to deal with. During exam season, stress and anxiety can be very high, which can negatively impact your health and wellbeing- therefore it is important to keep it under control.

Everyone experiences high stress levels at some points of their life, but if this is not managed appropriately it can have detrimental effects. Bad stress, is the kind that wears you out, leaves you jittery and is harmful to your health. Some of the effects of high unmanaged stress include:

- Substance abuse as an unhealthy coping mechanism.
- Irregular sleep/insomnia.
- Unhealthy eating habits such as a reduced appetite which if prolonged can cause malnutrition or deficiencies, or overeating/binge eating.
- Depression or anxiety.
- Decreased motivation and the inability to focus, which is especially important for people dealing with exams.

However, there are different kinds of stress, and it can be used beneficially. Good stress is short-term, inspires and motivates you, enhances your academic performance. Learning how to manage stress with healthy coping mechanisms can help improve your overall mood, relationships with your family and friends, lead to less muscle tension which can improve headaches and pain, and improve your mental and body's health. Stress

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management is a lifelong skill and will allow you to achieve a happier mentality and reach goals. Overall, management can ease the stress related symptoms mentioned above.

The first step to stress management is learning to recognise it, such as difficulty breathing in response to a stimulus, consistent headaches, difficulty reacting to a problem or overreacting, and irritability. Some techniques include:

- Planning ahead to prevent getting overwhelmed by leaving things to the last minute.
- Breaking tasks down into smaller, manageable chunks and organising them into a priority order.
- Creating healthy stress outlets such as exercising or journaling.
- Socialising and asking friends/ family for help when needed.
- Taking break away from working to prevent burnout.
- Developing breathing techniques.

To further this, there are some websites you can access that can help, or if you're struggling mentally at the moment. These include <https://www.kooth.com>, <https://www.mind.org.uk>, <https://www.stress.org.uk> and some apps like "Calm" to promote healthy stress strategies.'

Ella and Sabrina are students in Year 12, currently working towards the RSPH Level 2 Award for Youth Health Champions. They would be grateful if you could provide feedback on their article to [office@furzeplatt.com](mailto:office@furzeplatt.com).

# FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL



years of excellence  
**1963 - 2023**

## FIRST DAY AT FURZE PLATT

**23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 1963**

*"I am the girl in the front right of the picture wearing a headband. I was a first year pupil, our year was the first to go through from day one to 'O' levels! I moved to Derbyshire where I raised my family and set up a Training and Education company. I am now in Dorset, working as a Unitary Councillor."*

*Cherry Brooks, nee McConnell*

## HAPPY MEMORIES OF FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Being in the News report  
Summer house challenge for  
Windsor in 2014. We won that  
term's house challenge.



## PTFA MEETING

**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - 7.30PM**

## LARGE RECEPTION MEETING ROOM

(In Reception, through first set of double doors and turn left)

Everyone is welcome to attend our next PTFA meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April where we will also be finding our lucky winners of the 200 Club draw who will each win £200! You can still buy numbers for the draw via the link below:

**JOIN THE 200 CLUB**

**200 CLUB**

**Winning numbers  
for our next draw**



We appreciate your feedback and welcome comments and ideas by phone call **01628 625308**, by email [ptfa@furzeplatt.net](mailto:ptfa@furzeplatt.net) and through our Facebook Page [facebook.com/fpssptfa](https://www.facebook.com/fpssptfa)

## HAPPY MEMORIES OF FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

A great education and good time, which I appreciate more as I've got older.



## HAPPY MEMORIES OF FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

Sitting on the grass round the back of the sports hall on hot summer days, eating lunch and laughing with friends.





**Do you want to be in the next number one pop band, a performer in the best classical orchestra in the world or you just want to be a better hairbrush singer?**

**The Music Department are giving you the opportunity to let your dreams come a reality!**

At Furze Platt Senior School we offer a huge range of lessons through our specialist instrumental teachers. From violin and flute to electric guitar and drums we have it all available to every Furze Platt student.

To find out more about lessons please see Mr Forster or drop him an email [stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net](mailto:stuart.forster@furzeplatt.net)



# Get your voice heard

The independent voice of families  
representing their experiences to improve lives

## What do we do?

We give a voice to families who, like ours, have a child or young person with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disabilities). We work in partnership with the local authority and decision makers to ensure that these views and experiences are heard and understood. Our aim is to improve the lives of all our children and young people with SEND.

## How do we do this?

By listening to our members and ensuring our membership is diverse. We do this through:

- Events
- Training Courses
- Consultations and surveys
- Information sharing

## Join us, become a member

All **parents and carers** of children and young people (aged 0- 25 years) with any SEND, living or accessing services in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, are welcome.

**Professionals and practitioners** who work with children and young people with SEND such as SENCOs, teachers and therapists are welcome to become associate members.

### Membership is FREE

To become a member or for more info, email us at [info@svrbwm.org.uk](mailto:info@svrbwm.org.uk)

Together we can improve lives

**Want to Get Active & Have Fun?**



# **Come and Enjoy Girls Cricket at Boyne Hill CC**

**No kit or  
equipment required.**

**All Ages  
from  
Under 5 (Reception)  
up to  
U13 (Year 8)**



**Come and join our  
growing Ladies and Girls  
Cricket Section.  
"All Abilities Welcome"**



**Girls Training:** **Fridays**  
U5-U9 6.15pm-7.30pm (Softball)  
U10-U13 6.00pm-7.30pm (Softball & Hardball)

## **Contact**

**Jack Spencer Jones**

**jackspencerjones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584**



**@BoyneHill CC**



**Boyne Hill CC**



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